

XP-0985

PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-10 are pending.

No new subject matter has been added to the specification.

Claims 39, 41-51 were allowed.

Claims 3-4, 6-9, 12-17, 24 and 36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, hence amended claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are now allowable. Also, independent claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 36, hence amended claim 28 and all claims dependent thereon are now allowable.

Claims 1-2, 10, 18-23, 25, 28, 31-32, 34-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Hamada et al. in view of GB 375,260. This rejection is respectfully traversed by the amendments to the claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

No fees are due with this response. However, if an error has been made in the fee calculations, please charge any excess fees due to Deposit Account No. 13-3377 under this general authorization.

It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Sabourin
Reg. No. 35,344

Agfa Corporation
Law & Patent Department
200 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA. 01887-1069

Tel: 978-284-5604

RAS/pc